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AN

APPEAL

TO

THE CATHOLICS OF CANADA,

AND ESPECIALLY

IRISH CATHOLICS,

FOR THE

ERECTION OF A CHURCH,

IN THE PARISH OF

ST. DUNSTAN OF LAKE BEAUPORT.

Montreal:

PRINTED BY STARKE & CO., 33 ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER ST.

1864.

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APPEAL.

The accompanying Statement of facts, in relation to the spiritual wants of the Catholic inhabitants, at Lake Beauport, County of Quebec, is earnestly recommended to the charitable consideration of all good Catholics.

Of its literal accuracy, there can be no doubt, signed as it is, by the The Reverend Hyacinthe Gagnon, Missionary at the Lake, and approved by Monseigneur de Tloa, Coadjutor to The Archbishop of Quebec.

Every one, who knows anything of the country, immediately below Quebec, on the North side of the St. Lawrence, is aware of its mountainous and sterile character. In the entrance to that wild region, the 280 Irish Catholics and their children, for whom it is proposed to erect a plain, inexpensive, but decent Church, have cast their lot in the land.

That these worthy families are able to subsist by honest industry, in such a situation, is infinitely to their credit;—that they are unable *as yet* to do much more, will not surprise any one acquainted with the difficulties against which the hardy settler in the forests of Canada, has to contend;—that they should not be left without a roof, under which to worship God, sheltered from summer heats and winter's snows must surely be the desire of all their co-religionists, more especially of those coming from the same country.

It is, therefore, that this Appeal is made.

The reader is respectfully referred to the annexe letter from the Reverend Father Gagnon, the Pastor c these poor people, for an interesting description of the locality.

The population numbers about 525.

It is thus divided as to Religion and origin:

Roman Catholics—	
Irish, natives or decendants of Irish, chiefly	280
Protestants—	
English, Scotch, and Irish	245
Total Population	525

The 245 English, Scotch, and Irish Protestants possess *two* Churches "consecrated," to use the words of Father Gagnon, "to their religious meetings, built with "the help of their Protestant friends, more favored by "temporal fortune." The 280 Roman Catholics, natives or descendants of Irish, possess only the *one* old, ruinous, and insufficient Chapel, threatening every day to fall down, described by their Reverend Pastor.

These simple facts appeal strongly to the thoughtful consideration of every pious Catholic.

In conclusion, it is earnestly hoped that those who have the good fortune to dwell within a few minutes walk of many spacious churches,—those whom God has blest with means which enable them to contribute, even a little, to so laudable an object, will not refuse their mite, to aid the struggling Catholie settlers about Lake Beauport.

Every such contributor will have the incalculable satisfaction of knowing that he has thereby assisted to establish one more outpost of the Faith, on the frontiers of population, and that thereby he has made the desert vocal, evening and morning, with the sacred song of Vespers, and the divine service of The Mass.

NOTICE.

In Montreal, Contributions will be received, under the superintendence of

In Kingston, the same benevolent work will be undertaken by

In Quebec, by

LETTER

From the Reverend HYACINTHE GAGNON, P.P., Curé of Laval, and Missionary at the Parish of St. Dunstan of Lake Beauport, to a friend in the western part of Lower Canada:

LAVAL, November 10th, 1864.

Dear and Revered Friend,—

You kindly requested me, last month, to give you a Statement respecting my parish of Lake Beauport,—rather for your charitable friends, who do not know our wants and poverty, than for yourself, who have had the opportunity of seeing and feeling, as your own, our state of destitution.

"Saint Dunstan of Lake Beauport," generally called Lake Beauport, is a parish of about four miles in breadth by four in length, situated eleven miles from Quebec, in the rear of the parishes of Charlesburg and Beauport. Its present population is about five hundred and twenty-five (525) inhabitants,—about four hundred of whom are Irish—natives or of Irish descent. About two hundred and eighty (280) are Roman CATHOLICS. The others belong to various PROTESTANT persuasions.

The parish is new and situated in the midst of mountains, hard to be cultivated, especially on account of the great quantity of stones, which cover the ground, almost entirely in some places. Until lately, it has been almost without practicable roads. It could not, therefore, up to the present day improve much.

Its chapel stands on a beautiful, though wild spot, on the north shore of the Lake which gives it the name it bears. Built some years ago of wood, it threatens to fall. The Catholic inhabitants, being too few in number, and especially too poor, to build it again, would try to

repair it, were it large enough. It has twenty-three feet in width outside, by forty-five in length, fifteen feet of which, by the whole breadth are employed, partly as a *Sacristy* and partly as the Priest's dwelling during the time of the Mission. The consequence of such a disproportion between the size of the building, and the population—small though that population be—is, that a part of those that wish to hear Mass are obliged, in the fine weather of Summer, to attend it out of doors; while in bad weather, and in the Winter time, they must forcibly stop at home, and lose the holy influences and support of our sacred Services.

The site of the Chapel is one of the most beautiful that can be conceived, on account of the Lake, on the shores of which it is built, and of the mountains by which it is surrounded. Lake Beauport is about a mile and a half in length by about a mile in width. It is so picturesque, that visitors from various parts of Canada and the United States, and even from Europe, come in the Summer season to see it. Such is the pleasure felt by many of them, that oftentimes they have been heard to say, while on its shores, that they feel *at home*,—the tranquility and happiness of home, or as if they would like to make it *their home*.

An Irish Missionary was lately sailing on the Lake on a small boat. His companion, a Canadian Priest, remarked on his face an expression of deep emotion, and was anxious to know the cause of it. "This Lake brings "up to my mind the Lake of Killarney, which is a short "distance from my birth place," was the reply.

It has become imperatively necessary, as well for the accommodation of the present population, as on account of the increase—slow, but real,—of the number of Catholics, to build another Church to the Almighty, which shall be about forty feet in breadth by seventy feet in length, to replace this small, poor, and ruinous Chapel. But, who will undertake such a work? Where are the necessary funds to be found to carry the scheme

into execution? What can such a small number of poor Irish settlers afford? Will sixty-five families, struggling every day with indigence and the hardships, and the difficulties of extending their clearings, and bringing them into proper cultivation, though sustained by the best heart,—will they be able to take on themselves such an expense, though it be but a few hundred dollars? Impossible. All that they *can*, they *will* do. Willingly they will give a part of their time, which is so valuable to them, to help in building a new Church to our God. They will furnish the materials which can be found on their lands. Cheerfully they will provide the Trustees with *all* the money they *can*, but they feel unable to provide *all* that will be necessary for the unavoidable expense of building their Church.

Will they, at the sight of their impotency, renounce this undertaking? By no means. The funds to supply the deficiency in their means to build a temple to the Almighty, are the hearts of all the Catholics of this Province;—they are the hearts of all the Catholic children of Green Erin, their brethren and fellow countrymen, who will not see, with an indifferent eye, a handful of poor struggling friends and brethren, destitute of a Church, in the midst of a Protestant population, still less numerous, it is true, but which possesses *two* Churches, consecrated to their religious meetings, and built with the help of their Protestant friends, more favored by temporal fortune.

Trusting in Divine Providence, which will not forsake them, and in their charitable friends, they have decided to set themselves to work.

In September, 1862, Monseigneur the Bishop of Tloa, Administrator of the Diocese for the Archbishop of Quebec, authorized the erection of a new Church, and was pleased to issue the subjoined invitation to charitable persons to assist the parishioners in the accomplishment of that pious work. Circumstances beyond the control of these poor families have up to the present

time prevented their taking advantage of this gracious condecension of their Bishop; but now they have resolved to undertake it; and with the blessing of God, and the generous aid, which they feel confident will not be denied them, the work will be commenced, and, it is hoped, completed in the ensuing year.

Such is, benevolent friend, the state of my Parish. You can do with this statement what you think fit and proper to attain the desired purpose.

Be kind enough to accept the sentiments of consideration with which

I have the honor to be,

Your most humble and obdt. servant,

(*Signed*,) HYACINTHE GAGNON, P.P.

INVITATION EN FAVEUR DE L'ŒUVRE PAR MGR. DE TLOA.

La Chapelle de la Mission du Lac de Beauport menaçant ruine, il est nécessaire d'en bâtir une nouvelle.

Mais les habitants de cette localité, étant pauvres et en petit nombre, sont incapables de bâtir cette Chapelle, sans avoir quelque assistance.

J'invite donc les personnes charitables à les aider dans cette pieuse entreprise.

(*Signé*) † C. F. EVÈQUE DE TLOA.

QUEBEC, 6 Sept., 1862.

(*Pour vraie copie,*)

HYACINTHE GAGNON, PTE,
Curé du Lac de Beauport.

(TRANSLATION.)

INVITATION IN FAVOR OF THE WORK BY THE BISHOP OF TLOA.

As the Chapel of the Mission of Lake Beauport has fallen into ruin, it is necessary to build a new one.

But the inhabitants of that locality, being poor and small in number, are unable to build this Chapel, without receiving some assistance.

I therefore invite charitable persons to assist them in this pious enterprise.

(*Signed,*) † C. F. BISHOP OF TLOA.